

## Among the Churches

Saturday, April 16, we left home for a brief visit among the churches in southwestern Ohio, in the interest of the Brethren Publication Board. We spent a very pleasant evening and night with our missionary in Dayton, Brother Copp and family, "who showed us no little kindness." Brother Copp is doing excellent work in Dayton, and the churches of Ohio should give him their unanimous support. The mission is progressing nicely, the scattered forces of the Brethren faith in the city are being gathered and organized for systematic work, and we confidently look forward to the time when the Brethren will have a strong self supporting church in that city. The mission is growing from without and from within, increasing in numbers and in spiritual strength. Brother Copp much desires to give all his time and labor to this one point, and in our judgment this he should do, but he can not unless the churches will give him the required support. The young people's society of the Ashland city church is paying him \$5.00 per month. Brethren, please stand by this mission. It will yield richly for God and humanity some day.

According to arrangement by Brother Copp we preached at Bear Creek Sabbath morning at 11. We had a very pleasant meeting and did a little business for the Publishing House. The tract collection amounted to \$3.08. It afforded us much pleasure to meet this people and we trust our short visit with them will prove mutually beneficial. In the afternoon we accompanied Brother Copp to West Alexandria where he preached at 2:30. The sermon was both timely and practical, and we feel sure well received. In the evening we held forth the word to a fair congregation. The tract collection here amounted to \$1.75. Also took a few subscriptions for the EVANGELIST. Both Bear Creek and West Alexandria schools gave us a good order, for "THE ANGELUS," the new name of our Sunday school paper. We trust other schools not now using this paper will introduce it into their schools. Write for special offer terms. The Beeghly sisters, Bear Creek, have our thanks for pleasant entertainment after service at that place. While at West Alexandria we were entertained at the home of Brother Wampler, where, we are told the preacher always finds comfortable entertainment.

Monday we went to Farmersville and while there were entertained at the very comfortable home of Brother and Sister Henkel. Monday evening we were conveyed to the home of Brother Coler, one of the charter members of the Brethren church and who in days gone by has done much for the advancement of its interests. Nor has he yet lost interest in the church, for he has remembered

the Publishing House in a very practical way. At his home we were kindly entertained Monday night. Tuesday Brother Coler gave himself, horse and buggy for our comfort. We visited and took dinner at the home of Sister Cotterman. Here we found a warm friend of all the interests and institutions of the church. She has our thanks for very substantial assistance. We also made a short call at Brother Swartz's, and later in the day at the home of Brother and Sister Gilbert where we took supper. All these people are much interested in the cause of the Master as represented by the Brethren church. Our brief stay at Farmersville was both pleasant and profitable to us. We thank them for their kindness and especially for the valuable assistance given the Publishing House.

On Wednesday we went to Gratis, or Winchester, as the town is called. Here we made our home with Brother and Sister Keim. We should like to write of the warm hearts and the comfortable home of these people, but really there is danger of doing them an injustice by advertising the entertainment they furnish the preacher. Indeed if we were to speak our mind freely there would no doubt be such an influx of preachers as to make it uncomfortable for the pastor of the Winchester church and his wife. This church has two pastors, Brother Keim and his wife. On several occasions she has filled appointments, and during our visit there she was requested to deliver the memorial address on decoration day. In Sister Keim the pastor of the Winchester church has a helpmeet in the true sense of the term. We spent a very pleasant evening at the home of Brother and Sister Ingler, but regretted very much that on account of neuralgia Brother Ingler could not enjoy the visit with the rest of the family. We appreciated the excellent piano music furnished by a member of this home. Friday, with Brother and Sister Keim, we spent all day at the home of the Stover's, a home that will be gratefully remembered by all who ever visit there. It was a pleasant day, a happy day to us at least, and may we not hope to them also. Brother Keim has already reported the services held during our visit with them. The collection for the tract work Sabbath evening amounted to \$3.71, and the Publishing House was otherwise kindly remembered. Brother Keim has a good working congregation, a well organized Sabbath school of which Sister Keim is superintendent, also a flourishing sisters' society. The pastor is an ardent supporter of the literature of the church and uses his influence to put the EVANGELIST into every home in the congregation. We returned home Monday, April 24, feeling that our visit was a profitable one in more than one way. These churches have

been brought into a little closer relation with the interests we represent, and the new acquaintances formed, will, we trust, be mutually helpful and encouraging in all our labors together with the Lord.

## The Army Canteen Decision

Attorney General Griggs' decision annulling the anti-canteen law has startled not only the temperance people throughout the land, but even those who are not favorable to prohibition and who were opposed to the bill. The decision is as plain an instance of lahorred sophistry as was ever seen. The section of the army bill referred to is as follows:

Sec 17.—That no officer or private soldier shall be detailed to sell intoxicating drinks as a bartender or otherwise, in any post exchange or canteen, nor shall any person be required or allowed to sell liquor in any encampment or fort, or on any premises used for military purposes by the United States; and the Secretary of War is hereby directed to issue such general order as may be necessary to carry the provisions of this section into full force and effect.

The plain intent of this law, as must be clear to the unprejudiced mind, was the prohibition of liquor selling upon any military premises, either by an officer or private soldier. By what legal convolution the Attorney General can twist this law which provides for the absolute prohibition of liquor selling into a permission to sell liquor is not very clear to us, except that it is the old story over that prohibition does not prohibit because liquor men are a lawless people. Any law that touches adversely the interests of the liquor traffic, however carefully such law may be worded, will be either disregarded or so twisted by these outlaws as to mean something different from what it says. But the result in this case was anticipated. When it was announced that the canteen was abolished, the *Christian Advocate* for March 9 said, "We rejoice in the downfall of the canteen. But we give notice to all who have promoted this change that there will be a combination of regular army officers against it, which will need watching, and many soldiers will sympathize with them." Even the *New York Post*, by no means an advocate of prohibition or of total abstinence, is startled by the decision of the Attorney General. It says: "To the ordinary unexpanded mind these two provisions would seem absolutely to forbid the sale of liquor on military premises by either a person in the military service or any other person; \* \* \* but the Attorney General has decided that 'it would be lawful and appropriate for the managers of the post exchanges to employ civilians for that purpose.' We have read more than once the alleged reasoning by which the law officer of the government reaches this extraordinary conclusion, but we can make neither head nor tail out of an argument that, when a law says that liquor shall not be sold on certain